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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/692,516	10/24/2003	SonSeng Yeow	STL 3262	9290
<div>7590 Raghunath S. Minisandram Seagate Technology LLC 920 Disc Drive, SV15B1 Scotts Valley, CA 95067</div>			<div>EXAMINER HAYLES, ASHFORD S</div>	
			<div>ART UNIT 3687</div>	<div>PAPER NUMBER</div>
			<div>MAIL DATE 05/13/2008</div>	<div>DELIVERY MODE PAPER</div>

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/692,516	<b>Applicant(s)</b> YEOW ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> VANEL FRENEL	<b>Art Unit</b> 3687	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### Notice to Applicant

1. This communication is in response to the application filed on 10/24/03. Claims 1-23 are pending.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 8, 15 and 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Li et al. (2003/0004784) in view of Eicher, Jr. et al. (2002/0099598).

(A) As per claim 1, Li discloses a method for replenishing low inventory, comprising: collecting inventory data (See Li, Page 1, Paragraph 0008; Page 3, Paragraphs 0037-0038); alerting a first person that a low inventory part needs replenishment and continuing to alert said first person until the part has been sent (See Li, Page 4, Paragraphs 0038-0039; 0043).

Li does not explicitly disclose alerting a second person that said low inventory part has been sent and continuing to alert said second person until the part has been received; and acknowledging that said low inventory part has arrived.

However, this feature is known in the art, as evidenced by Eicher. In particular, Eicher suggests that the method having alerting a second person that said low inventory part has been sent and continuing to alert said second person until the part has been received (See Eicher Page 13, Paragraph 0156; Page 17, Claim 21); and acknowledging that said low inventory part has arrived (See Eicher, Page 8, Paragraphs 0098-0099).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included the feature of Eicher within the system of Li with the motivation of providing alert thresholds which may be automatically established by the system and altered based on historical data related to a key performance indicator to be monitored (See Eicher, Page 3, Paragraph 0028).

(B) As per claim 8, Li discloses a system for replenishing low inventory that provides line of sight communication between several locations that may not be within each others line of sight, comprising: a first terminal located in a first site for entering and displaying information (See Li, Page 3, Paragraphs 0035-0036; Page 4, Paragraphs 0040-0043); a second terminal located in a second site for entering and displaying information (See Li, Page 3, Paragraphs 0035-0036; Page 4, Paragraphs 0040-0043).

Li does not explicitly disclose a network connected to said first terminal and said second terminal for exchanging information between said first terminal and said second terminal; and a computer program having an interface operating on said first terminal and said second terminal displaying status details of said first site and said second site;

wherein said status details include a visual representation of the state of said first site and said second site.

However, these features are known in the art, as evidenced by Eicher. In particular, Eicher suggests a network connected to said first terminal and said second terminal for exchanging information between said first terminal and said second terminal (See Eicher , Page 8, Paragraphs 0102-0106); and a computer program having an interface operating on said first terminal and said second terminal displaying status details of said first site and said second site (See Eicher, Page 8, Paragraphs 0102-0106); wherein said status details include a visual representation of the state of said first site and said second site (See Eicher, Page 15, Paragraphs 0181-0182).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included the feature of Eicher within the system of Li with the motivation of providing alert thresholds which may be automatically established by the system and altered based on historical data related to a key performance indicator to be monitored (See Eicher, Page 3, Paragraph 0028).

(C) As per claim 15, Li discloses a method for replenishing low inventory, comprising: collecting inventory data that represents the supply of a part (See Li, Page 1, Paragraph 0007); uploading said inventory data to a database (See Li, Page 1, Paragraph 0011); comparing said inventory data to a trigger and deciding whether the supply of said part requires replenishment (See Li, Page 4, Paragraphs 0053-0055); requesting a first personnel to replenish said part by alerting the first personnel that said part requires

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replenishment (See Li, Page 5, Paragraph 0056); continuing to alert said first personnel until said part has been sent (See Li, Page 5, Paragraphs 0056-0059); verifying said part has been sent and acknowledging said part has been sent by updating said database (See Li, Page 5, Paragraph 0054); stop alerting said first personnel that said part requires replenishment (See Li, Page 5, Paragraph 0058); alerting a second personnel that said part is in transit (See Li, Page 5, Paragraph 0056); continuing to alert said second personnel until said part is delivered (See Li, Page 5, Paragraphs 0056-0057).

Li does not explicitly disclose acknowledging receipt of said part; and stop alerting said second personnel that said part is in transit.

However, this feature is known in the art, as evidenced by Eicher. In particular, Eicher suggests acknowledging receipt of said part; and stop alerting said second personnel that said part is in transit (See Eicher, Page 13, Paragraph 0157; Page 15, Paragraphs 0180-0181).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included the feature of Eicher within the system of Li with the motivation of providing alert thresholds which may be automatically established by the system and altered based on historical data related to a key performance indicator to be monitored (See Eicher, Page 3, Paragraph 0028).

(D) As per claim 22, Li discloses a method of replenishing parts to a site, according to an actual demand of the site, said site being physically separated from a warehouse

supplying the parts, comprising: collecting inventory data that represents the supply of a part at the site (See Li, Page 3, Paragraphs 0030-0031); uploading said inventory data to a database (See Li, Page 1, Paragraph 0011); comparing said inventory data to a trigger and deciding whether the supply of said part at the site requires replenishment (See Li, Page 4, Paragraphs 0053-0055).

Li does not explicitly disclose providing a line of sight communication between the site and the warehouse to synchronize the flow of said part at said demand rate resulting in said site and said warehouse operating as though they are next to one another.

However, these features are known in the art, as evidenced by Eicher. In particular, Eicher suggests a line of sight communication between the site and the warehouse to synchronize the flow of said part at said demand rate resulting in said site and said warehouse operating as though they are next to one another (See Eicher, Page 5, Paragraphs 0063-0065; Page 5, Paragraphs 0070-0071).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included the feature of Eicher within the system of Li with the motivation of providing alert thresholds which may be automatically established by the system and altered based on historical data related to a key performance indicator to be monitored (See Eicher, Page 3, Paragraph 0028).

(E) As per claim 23, Li discloses a system for replenishing low inventory, comprising: means for collecting inventory data (See Li, Page 1, Paragraph 0008; Page 3,

Paragraphs 0037-0038); means for alerting a first person that a low inventory part needs replenishment and continuing to alert said first person until the part has been sent (See Li, Page 5, Paragraphs 0056-0059).

Li does not explicitly disclose means for alerting a second person that said low inventory part has been sent and continuing to alert said second person until the part has been received; and means for acknowledging that said low inventory part has arrived.

However, these features are known in the art, as evidenced by Eicher. In particular, Eicher suggests means for alerting a second person that said low inventory part has been sent and continuing to alert said second person until the part has been received (See Eicher Page 13, Paragraph 0156; Page 17, Claim 21); and means for acknowledging that said low inventory part has arrived (See Eicher, Page 8, Paragraphs 0098-0099).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included the feature of Eicher within the system of Li with the motivation of providing alert thresholds which may be automatically established by the system and altered based on historical data related to a key performance indicator to be monitored (See Eicher, Page 3, Paragraph 0028).

4. Claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Li et al. (2003/0004784) in view of Eicher, Jr. et al. (2002/0099598)



as applied to claims 1, 8, 15 and 22-23 above, and further in view of Hill et al. (2004/0034581).

(A) As per claim 2, Li and Eicher disclose wherein said step of alerting a first person that a low inventory part needs replenishment and continuing to alert said first person until the part has been sent (See Li, Page 4, Paragraphs 0038-0039; 0043).

The combination of Li and Eicher does not explicitly disclose changing the color of a portion of a monitor to a first color.

However, this feature is known in the art, as evidenced by Hill. In particular, Hill suggests changing the color of a portion of a monitor to a first color (See Hill, Page 4, Paragraph 0039; Page 5, Paragraph 0045).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included the feature of Hill within the collective teachings of Eicher and Li with the motivation of providing automated real-time control of stock levels and ordering in a timely manner so that optimal stock levels are maintained (See Hill, Page, 1, Paragraph 0005).

(B) As per claim 3, Hill discloses the method wherein said step of alerting a first person that a low inventory part needs replenishment and continuing to alert said first person until the part has been sent includes changing the color of a portion of a monitor to red (See Hill, Page 4, Paragraph 0039; Page 5, Paragraph 0045).

(C) As per claim 4, Hill discloses the method wherein said step of alerting a second

person that said low inventory part has been sent and continuing to alert said second person until the part has been received includes changing the color of a portion of a monitor to a second color (See Hill, Page 4, Paragraph 0039; Page 5, Paragraph 0045).

(D) As per claim 5, Hill discloses the method wherein said step of alerting a second person that said low inventory part has been sent and continuing to alert said second person until the part has been received includes changing the color of a portion of a monitor to yellow (See Hill, Page 4, Paragraph 0039; Page 5, Paragraph 0045).

(E) As per claim 6, Hill discloses the method wherein said step of acknowledging that said low inventory part has arrived includes changing the color of a portion of a monitor to a third color (See Hill, Page 4, Paragraph 0039; Page 5, Paragraph 0045).

(F) As per claim 7, Hill discloses the method wherein said step of acknowledging that said low inventory part has arrived includes changing the color of a portion of a monitor to green (See Hill, Page 4, Paragraph 0039; Page 5, Paragraph 0045).

(G) As per claim 9, Hill discloses the system wherein said status details further includes the inventory of all parts that need replenishment in said first site and said second site (See Fig.7; Page 3, Paragraph 0032).

(H) As per claim 10, Hill discloses the system wherein said visual representation of

the state of said first site and said second site further includes a graphical representation of said site 1 and said site 2 (See Fig.7; Page 3, Paragraph 0032).

(I) As per claim 11, Hill discloses the system wherein said visual representation of the state of said first site and said second site further includes different colors representing the status (See Hill Page 4, Paragraph 0039; Page 5, Paragraph 0045).

(J) As per claim 12, Hill discloses the system wherein said visual representation further includes highlighting a portion of the screen with the color RED, said highlighted portion of the screen representing that an area of either site requires replenishment of low inventory parts (See Hill Page 4, Paragraph 0039; Page 5, Paragraph 0045).

(K) As per claim 13, Hill discloses the system wherein said visual representation further includes highlighting a portion of the screen with the color YELLOW, said highlighted portion of the screen representing that replenishment parts are in transit (See Hill Page 4, Paragraph 0039; Page 5, Paragraph 0045).

(L) As per claim 14, Hill discloses the system wherein said visual representation further includes highlighting a portion of the screen with the color GREEN, said highlighted portion of the screen representing that low inventory replenishment parts have arrived (See Hill Page 4, Paragraph 0039; Page 5, Paragraph 0045).

(M) Claims 16-21 recite the underlying process steps of the elements of claims 2-7, and respectively. As the various elements of claims 2-7 have been shown to be either disclosed by or obvious in view of the collective teachings of Li, Eicher and Hill, it is readily apparent that the method disclosed by the applied prior art performs the recited underlying functions. As such, the limitations recited in claims 16-21 are rejected for the same reasons given above for claims 2-7, and incorporated herein.

### ***Conclusion***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VANEL FRENEL whose telephone number is (571)272-6769. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew S. Gart can be reached on 571-272-3955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Vanel Frenel/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3687

May 10, 2008